



“Glorious Old Norfolk!”

REQUISITION.

To John Rolph, Esquire.

SIR:—

The undersigned, your old constituents, and friends of Civil and Religious Liberty, in the County of Norfolk; in view of the peculiar state of parties in the Province—the very important questions of public policy now agitating the public mind—your long tried and faithful adherence to those great principles of Reform and Progress, held in common by the party to which we are proud to belong; most cordially and respectfully, yet earnestly ask you again to lend your invaluable services to the country of your early adoption, and to stand as a Candidate for the Representation of this County at the approaching General Election—pledging ourselves, should you comply with our request, to use our best exertions by our votes and influence, to ensure your triumphant return to Parliament.

(Signed,) I. W. POWELL,
and 693 others.

TO THE FREE AND INDEPENDENT
ELECTORS
OF THE
COUNTY OF NORFOLK.

GENTLEMEN:—

I cheerfully accept from you the high invitation to serve our common country in the Provincial Parliament; and I thank you for the generous manner in which that invitation is conveyed.

The magnitude of the trust you so confidently repose, the proud position long sustained by “Glorious Old Norfolk,” and the high and honorable expectations of its enlightened Electors, cannot fail to make me engage in your service, at this juncture of affairs, with diffidence and concern.

Twice in former times, by me never to be forgotten, MIDDLESEX invited me in comprehensive terms, to serve UPPER CANADA. A similar

commission, breathing the same high views, now comes to me a second time from your welcome hands, veteran Electors of Norfolk! But it has a wider range; for it comprehends Canada, United Canada, Upper and Lower Canada;—the just interests and expectations of both which, I shall ever alike conscientiously regard.

You ask from me no pledges—but, be assured, this confidence, justified in your view by our past intercourse, will only demand from me the greater solicitude to retain and deserve it.

While I shall duly regard the Prerogatives of the Crown, as Prerogatives for the benefit of the People, and shall constitutionally preserve the most amicable relations to the Mother Country; you will find me unchanged in my opinion, and unabated in my zeal, in the pursuit of every measure conducive to equal, civil and religious rights among you—to the revision and simplification of the existing system of Law and Equity—to the equalization of the Representation—to an honest, just and economical administration of your public affairs—and to an ample and unimpaired enjoyment of your present Constitutional liberty.

The subjects most engrossing your attention, are the religious questions; especially from their magnitude the Clergy Reserves. There is in the hand of every Reformer of Norfolk, I am told, the republication of my views, recorded in former Parliamentary debates, upon these questions. Such are my present views; which seem to receive your sanction now as warmly as when, proudly clothed with the Representative character from your hands, I formerly express-

ed them, as I hope to do again, in your name and behalf in your House of Parliament. It may be right to remark that subsequent legislation on the Clergy Reserves, has surrounded the question with fresh difficulties, which have now to be met and adjusted in the attainment of a satisfactory result.

Respecting sectarian grants and schools, I shall be anxious to favor any plan which will terminate all religious dissension on the subject: provided it be alike liberal, just, and considerate towards the religious feelings and educational interests of both Catholics and Protestants. Of the possibility of satisfactorily framing the practical details of such a plan, I individually entertain no doubt. Under the guidance of those principles, which characterized our former political relations, I desire to legislate upon the subject in the same spirit with which Protestants would be satisfied if Catholics had a numerical and legislative superiority.

Such is an outline of some of the leading matters, which it would be my duty and inclination to support in Parliament and recommend to the favorable consideration of the Crown. But every government must have its character stamped upon it at the hustings; and official assurances or exertion given individually or collectively in public life, are unavailing, unless the people in the conscientious exercise of the elective franchise, elect to the popular branch of the Legislature, sincere and trustworthy representatives, who will faithfully aid in carrying out the policy desired in a wise, prudent, and constitutional manner.

JOHN ROLPH.

Simcoe, Nov. 19th, 1851.